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United States Patent [19]
Palmaz[11] **Patent Number:** **5,102,417**
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 7, 1992**[54] **EXPANDABLE INTRALUMINAL GRAFT,
AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
IMPLANTING AN EXPANDABLE
INTRALUMINAL GRAFT**[75] **Inventor:** **Julio C. Palmaz, San Antonio, Tex.**[73] **Assignee:** **Expandable Grafts Partnership, San
Antonio, Tex.**[21] **Appl. No.:** **174,246**[22] **Filed:** **Mar. 28, 1988****Related U.S. Application Data**[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 923,798, Nov. 3, 1986,
Pat. No. 4,739,762, which is a continuation-in-part of
Ser. No. 796,009, Nov. 7, 1985, Pat. No. 4,733,665.[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** **A61M 5/00; A61F 2/02**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **606/195; 604/8;
604/96; 604/282; 623/11**[58] **Field of Search** **128/343, 344; 604/93,
604/49, 282, 343, 97, 8, 283; 623/1, 12, 11;
606/191-195, 108**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner—C. Fred Rosenbaum*Assistant Examiner*—Mark Bockelman*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Ben D. Tobor

[57]

ABSTRACT

A plurality of expandable and deformable intraluminal vascular grafts are expanded within a blood vessel by an angioplasty balloon associated with a catheter to dilate and expand the lumen of a blood vessel. The grafts may be thin-walled tubular members having a plurality of slots disposed substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular members, and adjacent grafts are flexibly connected by at least one connector member.

36 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets